

REMARKS

Claims 1-41 are pending. Claims 1-41 were rejected. Claim 37 was objected to. Independent claims 1, 11, 24, and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Mazor (USP 6,351,516). Claim 37 has been amended to address informalities. Independent claims 1, 11, 24, and 37 have been amended to variably recite measuring generated current caused by the x-ray emission inducer. Neither Mazor, nor any other reference cited by the Examiner is believed to teach or suggest this element.

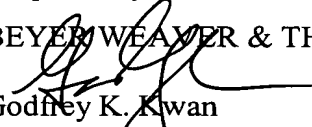
Mazor describes "an X-ray microfluorescence analyzer, comprising an excitation source and one or more detectors. The analyzer is used to determine whether the recesses of the test pattern have been properly filled. When irradiated by the excitation source, the metal layer (or other fill material in the recesses) emits fluorescent X-rays with a characteristic spectrum. The intensity of this emission is proportional to the mass of the emitting material." (Column 2, Lines 30-35).

However, Mazor does not teach or suggest measuring generated current caused by the x-ray emission inducer. In one embodiment, generated current can be measured to verify or confirm the existence of voids. In some examples, electrons penetrating the test sample completely can generate a current that can be detected by an electrically isolated stage (page 14, lines 16-19).

In light of the above remarks relating to the independent claims, dependent claims are believed allowable for at least the reasons noted above. Applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,

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